**Roman (206 B.C. - 409 A.D.)**
The Romans conquered the Carthaginians in 206 B.C. and began the 200-year pacification and Roman take-over of the Peninsula. For the Romans, the city was the center of all political, religious and leisure activity. By the first century A.D. there were more than 500 Roman cities in Spain. They built aqueducts, bridges, roads, baths, theaters, and arches of triumph. There are many remnants of Roman architecture standing today. Visit Roman amphitheaters in Itálica and Mérida, the aqueduct in Segovia (photo on left), and the bridges still in use in Córdoba and Salamanca.

**Visigothic (409 - 711)**
By 400 A.D. the Roman Empire began to decay. The territory became too extensive to govern and it became difficult to collect taxes because of corruption and an economic crisis that caused the cities to become impoverished. After 600 years of rule, the Romans found themselves taken over by barbarian tribes. The Visigoths, one group of barbarians, were able to extend their power and take over the Peninsula within a short period of time. They established their capital in Toledo. The entire Visigoth population moved into the Peninsula. There were 200,000 Visigoths and 8 million hispano-romanos. The Visigoths adopted much of the Roman culture, which was more advanced than their own, and that is why there were no problems with the natives - they could live as they had before. Much of the architectural style illustrates borrowings from other cultures, although you will see characteristic sculpted capitals in churches in Toledo and Córdoba.

**Arabic (711-1492)**
In 711 Tarik defeated Rodrigo, the last Visigothic king, and quickly moved up to take over Toledo. Within five years the Arabs took over almost the entire Peninsula. Covadonga, in the Cantabrian mountains, remained a small area of resistance made up of some native tribes and some Visigoth nobles. The Arabs called Spain Al-Andalus. It was considered a province of the Califate of Damascus. The capital was Córdoba which became one of the most beautiful cities of the western world and a center of culture. In its heyday Córdoba had 300 baths and 1000 mosques. Early Islamic architecture is characterized by horseshoe arches, double arches, and poly-lobed arches, brick-work, and elaborate decoration with calligraphy, geometric designs and plant motifs. A magnificent example of this style is the Mezquita de Córdoba.
The later Hispanic-Moorish style is characterized by wide bands of decoration in relief, wooden inlaid ceilings, pointed arches, use of tiles (azulejos) and stucco decoration. The Giralda in Sevilla (photo below on left) is representative of the Almohade period, while the Alhambra in Granada (photo below on right) is an exquisite example of the later Hispano-Muslim architecture and decoration of the Nazarí period. Mudejar architecture is Muslim artistry done under Christian rule. The Alcázar of Seville and the Synagogue in Toledo are examples of the Mudejar style.

**Romanesque** (11th -13th century)
The reconquest of Spain from the Arabs began in 722 with the battle of Covadonga. The reconquest was finally accomplished in 1492. There was a strong religious aspect to the reconquering of the Peninsula. In fact, it was considered a holy war against the Arab infidels. The Crusades gathered great strength in the 12th century with the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela serving as an inspiration to those waging the holy war. The pilgrimage route started in Roncesvalles, France and all along the 400-mile road there are romanesque structures, hospitals, churches, lodgings. As you travel through Spain and Europe, you will be able to recognize romanesque structures by the following characteristics: semi-circular arches, the use of pillars for columns in the interior walls, very thick walls reinforced by buttresses, few windows (dark interiors), plentiful sculpture on the portals and capitals, a floor plan in the form of the Latin cross with radiating chapels, many frescos to cover the walls, and barrel-vaulted ceilings. The Old Cathedral in Salamanca (photo on right) and several churches (San Martín, San Juan de Barbalos, etc.) offer good examples of Romanesque architecture.


**Gothic** (13th -16th century)
The religious fervor of the time, focused on the glorification of God, inspired a new, tall, heaven-bound structure. Technical advances allowed the structures to rise high with the support of flying buttresses to reinforce the walls. Europe has many Gothic cathedrals that you will recognize by the following characteristics: the use of pointed arches; height and elegance; cross-vaulted ceilings; flying buttresses (exterior supports); choirs set in the middle of the cathedral; many stained-glass windows, including the circular rose window, making the churches luminous in contrast with the dark heavy walled style of the Romanesque churches; and sculptures that are more natural looking, with more movement in the bodies and more expression on their faces. Spanish Gothic is characterized by an abundance of decoration. The Cathedrals in Sevilla, Oviedo, and Burgos (photo on left) are typically Spanish Gothic. The new Cathedral of Salamanca is more pure Gothic in style. The Isabelina style (popular during the prestigious reign of Isabel La Católica) is a mix of gothic, mudéjar and Nordic (use of shells). The facades are heavily decorated. San Juan de los Reyes in Toledo is an example of the Isabelina style.

**Renaissance** (16th century)
The first phase of Renaissance architecture (early 16 Century) is close to the Isabelina style. It is called Plateresque and is characterized by: very ornate decoration similar to that of a silversmith's work; ornamental Italian themes including grotesques, scrolls, medallions and floral decorations; symmetry and balance. Examples include the University of Salamanca facade, the Hostal de los Reyes in Santiago de Compostela, and the Ayuntamiento in Sevilla. The classical Renaissance style is less ornate, more geometric and serene. Classical Renaissance architects were obsessed with proportion. The Escorial (photo below) outside of Madrid is pure Renaissance style, as is the Plaza Mayor in Madrid.

**Baroque** (17th -18th century)
Baroque architecture was a reaction to the coldness, straight lines and monotony of the classical Renaissance style. It is theatrical and aimed to impress. The facades of baroque churches have superabundant decoration, the interior columns are entwined with vines and the altars are excessively ornate. One of the very clear marks of baroque architecture is the curved line. The Plaza Mayor de Salamanca, La Granja, the Royal Palace in Madrid, and the facade of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela (photo on next page) are examples of the baroque style. The Churrigueresque style is excessively and sumptuously decorated. The Transparente in the Cathedral in Toledo is a stunning example of this style.
Neoclassical (late 18th century)
This style coincided with the excavations of Pompeii in 1748, which created a renewed interest in classical style. The main characteristics were classical lines, pure Hellenistic style with natural, realistic figures, rejection of excessive ornamentation and the use of mythological sculptures. Under King Carlos III, Madrid was made the permanent capital of Spain, and at that time many improvements were made to the city which included the following neoclassical structures: the Puerta de Toledo, the Prado Museum, the Puerta de Alcalá, and the Fountain of Cibeles (photo below).
19th Century Architecture
This century marks a general disorientation in European architecture and a lack of imagination. We find eclectic styles combining past styles with little original innovations.

Modern Architecture
At the turn of the century there was a reaction against the utilitarianism and lack of esthetic sense during the early industrial revolution. We begin to see curved lines again, exotic styling, asymmetry and the use of new materials such as iron and glass. The work of Gaudí in Barcelona exemplifies modern Spanish architecture (photo below of Casa Batlló).